NEWS ANALYSIS #1-0247 FEBRUARY 26, 1976
RONALD J. DUNLAVEY

A NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNCR: ON WEDNESDAY PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED THE NOMINATION OF WILLIAM SCRANTON AS THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE APPOINTMENT:

VOICE:

IN RECENT MONTHS, THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DEVELOPED INTO A TOPIC OF MAJOR INTEREST. IN PART, THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVE ISSUES BEFORE THE U.N.---PARTICULARLY THE RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. IN PART IT WAS DUE TO THE LONGER-RANGE PROBLEM OF THE EXERCISE OF POWER IN A GREATLY-EXPANDED WORLD ORGANIZATION. AND IN PART IT WAS DUE TO THE STYLE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, DANIEL MOYNIHAN, WHO USED BLUNT, FORCEFUL AND CRITICAL LANGUAGE NOT OFTEN HEARD AT THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FROM AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT.

THE NOMINATION OF WILLIAM SCRANTON TO SUCCEED MR. MOYNIHAN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REPRESENT A CHANGE IN STYLE. MR. SCRANTON, ON THE BASIS OF HIS POLITICAL RECORD, IS MORE RESTRAINED THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, MORE IN THE MOLD OF THE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMAT. HOWEVER, LIKE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, MR. SCRANTON ALSO HAS A REPUTATION AS AN INDEPENDENT THINKER. HE HEADED A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT, AND IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OF AN EVEN-HANDED AMERICAN POLICY WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE ARAB STATES IN PEACE EFFORTS, A SUGGESTION WHICH FORESHADOWED LATER DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES BY WASHINGTON.

YET IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SCRANTON NOMINATION REFLECTS ANY BASIC CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY. IN

ANNOUNCING THE NOMINATION, PRESIDENT FORD REMARKED:
"OBVIOUSLY THERE AREN'T MANY PAT MOYNIHANS WHEN IT COMES TO FLAIR AND FLAMBOYANCE, BUT THE BASIC POLICY WILL BE IDENTICAL."
THE NEW AMBASSADOR, HE ADDED, WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT A POLICY STARTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IN HIS SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST FALL---THAT OF "STANDING UP FOR THE UNITED STATES AGAINST UNFAIR ATTACKS" BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. HE'LL CONTINUE, SAID MR. FORD, TO "CALL A SPADE A SPADE."

SO, THE CONSENSUS IS THAT THE SCRANTON NOMINATION POINTS TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CHANGE IN STYLE RATHER THAN IN THE SUBSTANCE OF AMERICAN POLICY. STYLE, HOWEVER, IS IMPORTANT. AND OBVIOUSLY MR. FORD IS CONVINCED THAT THE SCRANTON STYLE---FIRM BUT QUIETLY PERSUASIVE RATHER THAN FLAMBOYANT---IS ONE THAT, AT THIS POINT, WILL BEST SERVE NOT ONLY AMERICAN INTERESTS BUT U.N. INTERESTS AS WELL. FOR, CONTRARY TO SOME POPULAR NOTIONS---INCLUDING CALLS FOR AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL---THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO REGARD THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION, AND ITS OWN COMMITMENT TO THE U.N. IDEA, AS MATTERS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. THE NOMINATION OF A MAN OF MR. SCRANTON'S STATURE---FORMER CONGRESSMAN, GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE---REFLECTS A DESIRE BY PRESIDENT FORD TO EMPHASIZE THE CONTINUING STRENGTH OF THAT COMMITMENT.

-0-